

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 5

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FATS AND OILS

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PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION TO THE STANDARD FOR OLIVE OILS AND OLIVE POMACE OILS (CXS 33-1981): REVISION OF SECTIONS 3, 8 AND APPENDIX

(Comments from Ghana, Yemen and Morocco)

Ghana

Position: Ghana supports the proposed draft revision of the standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils at step 3 prepared by the Electronic Working Group.

Rationale: The proposed work gave consideration to the latest technological knowledge, and scientific progress of the sector in order to facilitate trade, promote consumer protection and facilitate the harmonization of national legislation with Codex.

Yemen

The Yemen Standardization, Metrology & Quality Control Organization (YSMO), would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your other colleagues at your prestigious organization a prosperous future and continued success.

In reference to the proposal which was introduced by some delegates who participated in the 26th meeting of Oil and Fats technical committee held in February 2019 which includes removing the regular virgin olive oil category of the standard No. (CXS 33-1981) concerning olive oil and olive heavy oil, we would like to inform you that deleting this category of regular virgin olive oil from standard concerning olive oil and olive heavy oil No. (CXS 33-1981) will harm olive oil products for some Arab countries. Thus, YSMO expresses its objection to removing this category of regular virgin olive oil out of this standard.

Morocco

Concerning the Removal of the ordinary virgin olive oil category (OVOO)

Morocco appreciates the work done by the Electronic Working Group in connection with the "Proposed draft revision of the standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils". However, Morocco disagrees the removal of the ordinary virgin olive oil (OVOO) category and proposes to keep it between brackets in the proposed draft and continuing the discussion until consensus will be reached.

Rationale:

Morocco considers that:

- There was no consensus between the members of the EWG and during the CCFO26 to decide the deletion of the OVOO category from the Standard;
- The deletion of this category of oils from the standard is conflicted with the guidance and objectives of the Codex Alimentarius to promote coordination of all work of international governmental and non-governmental organizations on food standards.
- In the absence of scientific data on toxicity and in accordance with the Codex Procedural Manual, which clarifies this point in para. 2 of Section IV on Risk Analysis, OVOO is still considered fit for human consumption.
- OVOO exists in the International Agreement of the International Olive Council IOC (2015) and in many national regulations;

On Basis to the above, Morocco requests that:

- A scientific study be carried out to decide on the limit between oils suitable for consumption and those known as lampantes (limits of organoleptic characteristics and acidity);
- The realization of this study must be done in harmony with the revision of the commercial standard on olive oil and olive pomace oils of the IOC which will be presented during the negotiations of the future agreement on olive oils and olive pomace oils for the year 2024;
- For decisions impacting the economy of several countries, an economic impact study is necessary and must be carried out.

Concerning the linolenic acid/ in (3.2) composition factors:

Morocco recommended maintaining the following footnote for the composition of linoleic acid C18: 3:

“pending the results of the International Olive Council (IOC) survey and their examination by the Committee on fats and oils, national limits may continue to be applied”.

Rationale:

- No limit is proposed for this fatty acid at the level of the Codex standard for olive oils;
- A study coordinated by the IOC with the objective of establishing a decision tree relating to linoleic acid has been finalized. It appears that this decision tree, which is the result of several years of scientific studies carried out by several countries including Morocco, reflects the factual data of our varieties with a threshold less than or equal to 1.4.